

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A device for receiving and drawing tight an edge of a tarp on a moveable vehicle, the
2 device comprising:
 - 3 a) a latching member having a latch plate with an inverted channel and a lip, under
4 which the edge of a tarp can extend in an operable orientation and an arm
5 extending from the latch plate;
 - 6 b) at least one guide through which the arm extends;
 - 7 c) means mounted to the latching member for displacing the latching member and
8 tightening the tarp; and
 - 9 d) means mounted to the latching member for returning the latching member to a
10 rest position.
- 1 2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the guide is a track.
- 1 3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the arm at least partially surrounds the track.
- 1 4. A device according to claim 2, wherein the track has at least two sidewalls seating
2 against the arm for forming a bearing surface.

1 5. A device according to claim 4, wherein the arm has four sides and said at least two
2 track sidewalls comprise four sidewalls seating against the four sides of the arms.

1 6. A device according to claim 2, further comprising a housing in which the track is
2 formed, said housing being attachable to the vehicle.

1 7. A device according to claim 6, wherein said returning means is mounted to the latching
2 member and the housing.

1 8. A device for receiving and drawing tight an edge of a tarp on a moveable vehicle, the
2 device comprising:

- 3 a) a latching member having a latch plate with an inverted channel and a lip, under
4 which the edge of a tarp can extend in an operable orientation and an arm
5 extending from the latch plate;
- 6 b) at least one track through which the arm extends, said track having four sidewalls
7 seating against the arm for forming a bearing surface;
- 8 c) means mounted to the latching member for displacing the latching member and
9 tightening the tarp; and
- 10 d) means mounted to the latching member for returning the latching member to a
11 rest position.

1 9. A device according to claim 8, further comprising a housing in which the track is
2 formed, said housing being attachable to the vehicle.

1 10. A device according to claim 8, wherein said returning means is mounted to the
2 latching member and the housing.

1 11. A device for receiving and drawing tight an edge of a tarp on a moveable vehicle, the
2 device, comprising:

3 a) a latching member having a latch plate with an inverted channel and a lip, under
4 which the edge of a tarp can extend in an operable orientation and an arm
5 extending from the latch plate;

6 b) at least one guide through which the arm extends;

7 c) a prime mover mounted to the latching member for displacing the latching
8 member and tightening the tarp; and

9 d) a spring mounted to the latching member for returning the latching member to a
10 rest position.

1 12. A device according to claim 11, wherein the prime mover is a reel.

1 13. A device according to claim 12, wherein the guide is a track.

- 1 14. A device according to claim 13, wherein the arm at least partially surrounds the track.
- 1 15. A device according to claim 13, wherein the track has at least two sidewalls seating
2 against the arm for forming a bearing surface.
- 1 16. A device according to claim 15, wherein the arm has four sides and said at least two
2 track sidewalls comprise four sidewalls seating against the four sides of the arms.
- 1 17. A device according to claim 13, further comprising a housing in which the track is
2 formed, said housing being attachable to the vehicle.
- 1 18. A device according to claim 17, wherein the arm has a stop near one end of the track
2 to abut the track and prevent the arm from sliding out of the track when returning to a rest
3 position.
- 1 19. A device according to claim 18, wherein the reel includes a ratchet for resisting
2 rotation in a direction.
- 1 20. A device according to claim 19, wherein the reel includes a belt that is connected to
2 the arm at one belt end and at a second, opposite belt end said belt is connected to a spool
3 around which the belt is wound to tighten the belt.

- 1 21. A device according to claim 20, wherein the spring connects to the latching member
2 at one spring end and to the housing at a second, opposite spring end.
- 1 22. A device according to claim 21, wherein the spring is an elastomeric member.
- 1 23. A device according to claim 21, wherein the spring is a coil spring.
- 1 24. A device according to claim 21, wherein the spring is a pneumatic spring.
- 1 25. A device for receiving and drawing tight an edge of a tarp on a moveable vehicle, the
2 device, comprising:
- 3 a) a latching member having a latch plate with an inverted channel and a lip, under
4 which the edge of a tarp can extend in an operable position and an arm extending
5 from the latch plate;
- 6 b) at least one guide through which the arm extends; and
- 7 c) a prime mover mounted to the latching member for displacing the latching
8 member and returning the latching member to a rest position.
- 1 26. A device according to claim 25, wherein the prime mover is a pneumatic cylinder.